

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing content-related information for delivery to a processing device configured to support an electronic program guide of a first type, the method comprising:

configuring a reference information object model such that XML documents or other content-related information from diverse information sources can be generated therefrom in a consistent manner so as to be suitable for processing by a wide variety of different electronic program guide applications for use with the content-related information in accordance with a unified modelling language format,

the reference information object model comprising a plurality of directly or indirectly interrelated classes each having at least one specified property, the reference information object model defining a set of requirements, the set of requirements relating to at least one type of content,

wherein the reference information object model is generated utilizing an iterative process in which an initial version of the model is generated using a first set of data specifications, and at least one subsequent version of the model is generated from the initial version using at least a second set of data specifications; and

configuring [[at least a]] portions of the content-related information for consistency with corresponding portions of the reference information model when the content-related information satisfies the set of requirements, and generating a plurality of different schema, based at least in part on the associated portions of the reference information model and corresponding to different types of electronic program guide such that the configured portions of the content-related information so configured thereby being are selectively provided to extractable by the electronic program guide of

the first type and at least a second electronic program guide of a second type different than the first type in accordance with the corresponding schema and a specified semantic and syntactic consensus; wherein at least some of said content related information which is accessed by said first and second types of electronic program guide is present in the initial version of the model and the at least one subsequent version of the model and wherein said initial version of the model may be changed to the subsequent version of the model to allow the same to be accessed by the second type of electronic programme guide without the content related information itself changing between said versions of the model.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the specified property utilizes one or more attributes, relationships and states.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the reference information model comprises a plurality of elements including one or more enumeration elements and one or more of the classes, a given one of the plurality of classes being associated with at least a subset of the enumeration elements and at least a subset of the remaining classes.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the given one of the plurality of classes comprises a program class element, and the remaining class elements comprise one or more of movie, episode, personnel, cast, credits, station and designated market area class elements.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein instances of the classes are
2 configured as objects in an object-oriented programming format, and one or more of the objects
3 contain structures represented as attributes.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

1 12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one subsequent version
2 of the model is periodically updated in accordance with one or more sets of updated data
3 specifications.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the configuring comprises
2 transforming the content-related information from a first format not compliant with the reference
3 information model to a second format compliant with the reference information model.

1 14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the content-related information in
2 the first format comprises one or more documents for use with an electronic program guide of a type
3 not based on the reference information model, and further, wherein the documents are converted to
4 the second format so as to be utilizable at least by the electronic program guide of the first type.

1 15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the transforming utilizes an
2 extensible mark-up language style sheet generated at least in part utilizing the content-related
3 information in the first format and the reference information model.

1 16. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a processing device configured to support an
2 electronic program guide of a first type for processing content-related information, the method
3 comprising:

4 receiving the content-related information;

5 configuring a reference information object model such that XML documents and/or other
6 content-related information from diverse information sources can be generated therefrom in a
7 consistent manner so as to be suitable for processing by a wide variety of different program guide
8 applications in accordance with a unified modelling language format;

9 defining a set of requirements for the reference information object model, the set of
10 requirements relating to at least one type of content,

11 wherein the reference information object model is generated utilizing an iterative process in
12 which an initial version of the model is generated using a first set of data specifications, and at least
13 one subsequent version of the reference information object model is generated from the initial
14 version using at least a second set of data specifications;

15 configuring [[at least a]] portions of the received content-related information for consistency
16 with corresponding portions of the reference information model, when the received content-related
17 information satisfies the set of requirements;

18 generating a plurality of different schema, based at least in part on the associated portions of

19 the reference information model and corresponding to different types of electronic program guide;
20 selectively providing ~~extracting~~ the configured portions of the content-related information
21 ~~so configured by at least~~ to the electronic program guide of the first type and at least a second
22 electronic program guide of a second type different than the first type in accordance with the
23 corresponding schema and a specified semantic and syntactic consensus, wherein the content-related
24 information comprises one or more documents in an extensible markup language; and
25 processing the content-related information to generate a corresponding output at processing
26 devices associated with respective first electronic program and second electronic program guides;
27 and wherein the subsequent version of the model may be generated without changing the content
28 related information between said initial and second versions of the model.

1 17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing content-related information for delivery
2 to a processing device configured to support an electronic program guide of a first type, the apparatus
3 comprising:

4 a processor operative to configure ~~at least a~~ portions of the content-related information for
5 consistency with corresponding portions of a reference information object model that defines a set
6 of requirements and is configured in accordance with a unified modelling language format, the set
7 of requirements relating to at least one type of content[[,]] ;

8 the processor generating a plurality of different schema, based at least in part on the
9 associated portions of the reference information model and corresponding to different types of
10 electronic program guide;

11 wherein the reference information object model is generated utilizing an iterative process in
12 which an initial version of the model is generated using a first set of data specifications, and at least
13 one subsequent version of the model is generated from the initial version using at least a second set
14 of data specifications[[,]];

15 upon satisfying the set of requirements, the configured portions of the content-related
16 information being selectively provided to so configured thereby upon satisfying the set of
17 ~~requirements being selectively extractable by at least~~ the electronic program guide of the first type
18 and at least a second electronic program guide of a second type different than the first type in
19 accordance with the corresponding schema and a specified semantic and syntactic consensus; and

20 a memory coupled to the processor, for at least temporarily storing at least a portion of the
21 content-related information; and wherein the subsequent version of the model may be generated
22 without changing the content related information between said initial and second versions of the
23 model.

1 18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus associated with a processing device configured to
2 support an electronic program guide of a first type for processing content-related information, the
3 apparatus comprising:

4 a processor operative to implement at least a portion of the electronic program guide of the
5 first type for processing the content-related information such that XML documents and/or other
6 content-related information from diverse information sources can be generated therefrom in a
7 consistent manner so as to be suitable for processing by a wide variety of different electronic
8 program guide applications[[,]];

9 ~~at least a~~ portions of the content-related information being configured for consistency with
10 corresponding portions of a reference information object model that defines a set of requirements
11 and is configured in accordance with a unified modelling language format, the set of requirements
12 relating to at least one type of content;

13 a plurality of different schema being generated, based at least in part on the associated
14 portions of the reference information model and corresponding to different types of electronic
15 program guide;

16 wherein the reference information object model is generated utilizing an iterative process in
17 which an initial version of the model is generated using a first set of data specifications, and at least
18 one subsequent version of the model is generated from the initial version using at least a second set
19 of data specifications[[,]];

20 upon satisfying the set of requirements, the configured portions of the content-related
21 information being selectively provided to so configured thereby upon satisfying the set of
22 requirements being selectively extractable by at least the electronic program guide of the first type
23 and at least a second electronic program guide of a second type different than the first type in
24 accordance with the corresponding schema and a specified semantic and syntactic consensus; and

25 a memory coupled to the processor, for at least temporarily storing at least a portion of the
26 content-related information, and wherein the subsequent version of the model may be generated
27 without charging the content related information between said initial and second versions of the
28 model.

1 19. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage
2 medium storing, one or more software programs for processing content-related information for
3 delivery to a processing device configured to support an electronic program guide of a first type,
4 wherein the one or more software programs are executed on the processing device implementing the
5 steps of:

6 determining a reference information object model such that XML documents or other
7 content-related information from diverse information sources can be generated therefrom in a
8 consistent manner so as to be suitable for processing by a wide variety of different electronic
9 program guide applications on a unified modelling language format[[,]];:

10 the reference information object model comprising a plurality of directly or indirectly
11 interrelated classes each having at least one specified property, the reference information object
12 model defining a set of requirements, the set of requirements relating to at least one type of
13 content[[,]];:

14 wherein the reference information object model is generated utilizing an iterative process
15 in which an initial version of the model is generated using a first set of data specifications, and at
16 least one subsequent version of the model is generated from the initial version using at least a second
17 set of data specifications; [[and]]

18 configuring ~~at least a~~ portions of the content-related information for consistency with
19 corresponding portions of the reference information object model when the content-related
20 information satisfies the set of requirements[[,]];:

21 generating a plurality of different schema, based at least in part on the associated portions of
22 the reference information model and corresponding to different types of electronic program guide;

the configured portions of the content-related information ~~so configured thereby~~ being
selectively provided to ~~extractable by~~ the electronic program guide of the first type and at least a
second electronic program guide of a second type different than the first type in accordance with the
corresponding schema and a specified semantic and syntactic consensus; and
wherein the subsequent version of the model may be generated without changing the content
related information between said initial and second versions of the model.